

Appl. No. 09/858,475
Amdmt dated June 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3. This sheet replaces the original sheet containing Figure 3. In Figure 3, reference number 300 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, on page 2, line 29, a reference character “130” has been amended to read “103” as suggested by the Examiner. On page 17, line 10, the term “Figure 4a” has been amended to read “Figure 4A”.

In the drawings, the reference number 300 has been added to Figure 3.

Dealing with the claim objections, claim 8 has been amended to delete the entire last paragraph; claim 12 has been amended to delete the word “wherein”.

Turning now to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection set out in paragraph 4 of page 3, claim 19 has been amended to refer to “a plurality of mobile terminals and a plurality of radio access nodes” in the first paragraph of the body; in addition, a later reference to “a particular radio access node” have been amended to refer to “a particular one of said plurality of radio access nodes”. This is intended to clarify the fact that a radio access node whenever referred to is one of the plurality of radio access nodes initially introduced.

The Examiner has indicated that the phrase “in the event no next-hop forwarding entry exists for the mobile terminal, adding a new next-hop forwarding entry to the next-hop forwarding table for the mobile terminal ...” is confusing because the claim already states that there is “a next-hop forwarding table populated with a next-hop forwarding entry for each of a plurality of mobile terminals and radio access nodes”. The reference to “a mobile terminal” in the second paragraph of the body is intentionally ambiguous, so as to encompass a mobile terminal that is one of the plurality of mobile terminals already introduced, or a new mobile terminal, for example a new mobile terminal that has just moved within the coverage area of the particular network. In the event the mobile terminal is new, then the step of adding the entry to the table is executed as recited in the fourth paragraph of the body. On the other hand, if the mobile terminal is already included, then the fifth paragraph is executed by the message processor. Thus, the ambiguity of the reference in paragraph 3 is resolved with the detailed

recitations in paragraphs 5 and 6. Furthermore, the Examiner has also indicated that the fifth paragraph of the body of the claim is unclear. This is intended to deal with the situation where the mobile terminal has changed its point of attachment and thus will be in the coverage area of a different radio access node. When this occurs, the input will receive a message identifying a network address for the mobile terminal and a network address for a particular one of the radio access nodes, as recited in the second paragraph of the body. Then, the message processor changes the next-hop forwarding entry accordingly.

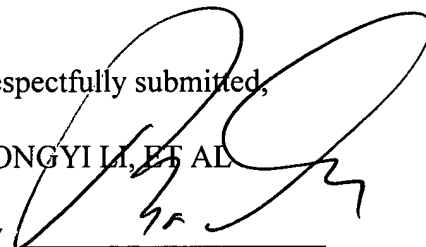
On this basis, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the claims is clear. However, in the event there are any outstanding issues in this regard, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to reach an agreement upon mutually acceptable terminology.

In view of the foregoing, early favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HONGYI LI, ET AL

By

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Dowell', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ralph A. Dowell
Reg. No. 26,868
Tel.: (703) 415-2555

Date: June 6, 2006

RAB:rld



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NEXT-HOP FORWARDING ENTRY	
INDEX	
RN.a	NIFa
RN.b	NIFb
MT	NIFa
⋮	⋮
RN.x	NIFx

300

Added Number

FIG. 3